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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

EPIC GAMES, INC.,

**Plaintiff,**

V.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.;  
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA,  
INC.; and GOOGLE LLC.

## Defendants.

Case No. 3:24-cv-06843-JD

**STIPULATED [PROPOSED] ORDER  
RE: DISCOVERY OF  
ELECTRONICALLY STORED  
INFORMATION**

Judge: Hon. James Donato

Action Filed: September 30, 2024

1           **1. PURPOSE**

2           This Order will govern discovery of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this case  
3 as a supplement to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court’s Guidelines for the Discovery  
4 of Electronically Stored Information, and any other applicable orders and rules.

5           **2. COOPERATION**

6           The parties are aware of the importance the Court places on cooperation and commit to  
7 cooperate in good faith throughout the matter consistent with this Court’s Guidelines for the  
8 Discovery of ESI.

9           **3. LIAISON**

10          The parties will identify liaisons to each other who are and will be knowledgeable about  
11 and responsible for discussing their respective ESI. Each e-discovery liaison will be, or have access  
12 to those who are, knowledgeable about the technical aspects of e-discovery, including the location,  
13 nature, accessibility, format, collection, search methodologies, and production of ESI in this  
14 matter. The parties will rely on the liaisons, as needed, to confer about ESI and to help resolve  
15 disputes without court intervention.

16          **4. PRESERVATION**

17          To reduce the costs and burdens of preservation and to ensure proper ESI is preserved, the  
18 parties represent that:

19           a)       These data sources are not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost  
20 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(B) and ESI from these sources will be preserved pursuant to  
21 normal business retention, but not searched, reviewed, or produced, except for good cause shown:

22           1)       backup systems and/or tapes used for disaster recovery purposes only;  
23           2)       systems, server and network logs; and  
24           3)       systems no longer in use that cannot be accessed.  
25           4)       deleted, slack space, fragmented, or other data accessible only by forensics;  
26           5)       random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data  
27                   that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system;  
28           6)       on-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, and

cookies;

- 7) automatically saved interim versions of documents and emails (for the avoidance of doubt, this provision does not apply to any final versions of documents and emails whether saved manually or automatically);
- 8) dynamic fields of databases or log files that are not retained in the usual course of business; and
- 9) data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as last opened dates.

## 5. SEARCH

a) The parties agree that in responding to an initial Fed. R. Civ. P. 34 request, or earlier if appropriate, they will meet and confer about methods to search ESI in order to identify ESI that is subject to production in discovery and filter out ESI that is not subject to discovery.

b) Deduplication: If exact duplicate documents reside within a Party's ESI data set, the Party shall produce only a single copy of a responsive document. "Exact duplicate" shall mean documents with exact Hash Value matches determined by MD5, SHA-1, or SHA26 algorithms. Hard copy documents shall not be eliminated as duplicates of responsive ESI nor of other responsive hard copy documents.

The parties shall deduplicate exact duplicates of ESI horizontally (i.e., across the entire collection and across custodians). Deduplication must be done only at the family level (i.e., if there are identical child documents that have unique parents, they are not duplicates; an attachment to a document is not a duplicate of the same document maintained as a standalone document). An email that includes content in the BCC or other blind copy field shall not be treated as a duplicate of an email that does not include content in the BCC or other blind copy field, even if all remaining content in the email is identical. Exact duplicates of emails retrieved from different storage locations (i.e. desktop vs. laptop vs. smart phone) shall not be considered unique based solely on the originating storage location.

The custodian that produced the production copy of the duplicate document and all custodians who were in possession of the deduplicated document shall be identified in the

1 "Custodian," and "Duplicate Custodian" fields of the copy of the single record that is produced.

2       Multiple custodians in the "Duplicate Custodians" field shall be separated by semicolons.  
 3 If processing and production is done on a rolling basis, an updated Duplicate Custodians field with  
 4 additional values shall be provided in an overlay. The producing party shall identify whether the  
 5 overlay replaces previously produced fields for a file or supplement them.

6           c)     Each party will use its best efforts to filter out common system files and application  
 7 executable files by using a commercially reasonable hash identification process. Hash values that  
 8 may be filtered out during this process are located in the National Software Reference Library  
 9 ("NSRL") NIST hash set list. Additional culling of file types based on file header information may  
 10 include, but are not limited to: Application Package File, Backup Files, Batch Files, Binary Disc  
 11 Image, C++ File Formats, Cascading Style Sheet, Configuration File, Database File, Dictionary  
 12 Files, Dynamic Link Library, Event Log Files, Executable Files, Hypertext Cascading Stylesheet,  
 13 Java Archive Files, JavaScript files, JavaScript Source Code and Class Files, Macintosh Resource  
 14 Fork Files, Package Manager Files, Program Files, Program Installers, Python Script Files, Shell  
 15 Script Files, System or Temporary Files, Thumbnail Cache Files, Troff Files, TrueType Font Files,  
 16 Windows Cabinet File, Windows Command Files, Windows File Shortcut, Windows Help Files,  
 17 Windows Metafiles and Enhanced Metafiles, Windows Spool Files, and Windows System File.

## 18           **6. PRODUCTION FORMATS**

19       The parties agree to produce documents in the formats described in Appendix 1 to this  
 20 Order. If particular documents warrant a different format, the parties will cooperate and meet and  
 21 confer as needed to arrange for the mutually acceptable production of such documents. The parties  
 22 agree not to degrade the searchability of documents as part of the document production process.

## 23           **7. PHASING**

24       When a party propounds discovery requests pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34, the parties agree  
 25 to meet and confer regarding the phasing and prioritization of productions.

## 26           **8. DOCUMENTS PROTECTED FROM DISCOVERY**

27           a)     Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of a privileged or work-product-  
 28 protected document is not a waiver of privilege or protection from discovery in this case or in any

1 other federal or state proceeding as provided in the concurrently filed [Stipulated] Protective Order  
2 For Litigation Involving Highly Sensitive Confidential Information and/or Trade Secrets in the  
3 above-captioned actions (the “Protective Order”), except as provided herein.

4 b) Communications concerning the litigation involving counsel of record in the  
5 litigation that post-date the filing of the first-filed complaint need not be placed on a privilege log.

6 c) The parties agree to meet and confer to discuss reasonable proposals regarding the  
7 content, format, timing and phasing of the exchanging of privilege logs. All privilege logs will be  
8 exchanged promptly after any Court ordered completion date for party document production. If  
9 the Court does not order a completion date, the parties will meet and confer regarding other  
10 reasonable dates to exchange privilege logs.

11 d) Activities undertaken in compliance with the duty to preserve information are  
12 protected from discovery under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) and (B), except for good cause shown.

13 e) The parties do not waive any objections to the production, discoverability,  
14 admissibility, protection or confidentiality of documents and ESI.

15 **9. MODIFICATION**

16 This Stipulated Order may be modified by a Stipulated Order of the parties or by the Court  
17 for good cause shown. Any such modified Stipulated Order will be titled sequentially as follows,  
18 “First Modified Stipulated Order re: Discovery of Electronically Stored Information for Standard  
19 Litigation,” and each modified Stipulated Order will supersede the previous Stipulated Order.

20  
21  
**IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

1 Dated: April 23, 2025

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## APPENDIX 1

## PRODUCTION FORMAT AND METADATA

1. **Production Components.** Productions shall include single page TIFFs, color JPGs (as described below), Native Files (as described below), Text Files, an ASCII delimited metadata file (DAT) and an image load file that can be loaded into commercially acceptable production software (e.g., Concordance).
2. **Image Load File** shall contain the following comma-delimited fields: BEGBATES, VOLUME, IMAGE FILE PATH, DOCUMENT BREAK, FOLDER BREAK, BOX BREAK, PAGE COUNT.
3. **Metadata Fields and Metadata File.** Each of the metadata and coding fields set forth below that can be extracted shall be produced for each document. The parties are not obligated to populate manually any of the fields below if such fields cannot be extracted from a document, with the exception of the following: BEGBATES, ENDBATES, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGE COUNT, NATIVELINK, TEXTLINK, PRODVOL, CUSTODIAN, ALL CUSTODIANS, DOCUMENT TYPE, TIMEZONE, CONFIDENTIALITY, and REDACTED. The metadata file shall be delimited according to the following characters:
  - Delimiter=¶ (ASCII:020)
  - Text-Qualifier=þ (ASCII:254)
  - New Line=® (ASCII:174)
  - Multi-value delimiter - ; (ASCII Code 059)

Field	Definition	Doc Type
CUSTODIAN	Name of person from where Documents/files were collected or, in the case of non-human sources, an identifier that indicates a non-custodial file.	All
ALL_CUSTODIANS	The Custodian value of the Document as well as the Custodian value for all copies of the Document that were removed as a result of de-duplication.	All
BEGBATES	Beginning Bates Number (production number)	All
ENDBATES	Ending Bates Number (production number)	All
BEGATTACH	First Bates number of family range ( <i>i.e.</i> , Bates number of the first page of the parent Document)	All
ENDATTACH	Last Bates number of family range ( <i>i.e.</i> , Bates number of the last page of the last attachment or, if no attachments, the Document itself)	All
PAGECOUNT	Number of pages in the Document	All
APPLICATION	Commonly associated application for the specified file type.	All
NATIVE FILE LINK	The file path for Documents provided in Native Format	All

1	TEXTPATH	File path for OCR or Extracted Text files	All
2	PARENT DATE	Date of the Parent Document mm/dd/yyyy	All
3	PARENT TIME	Time of the Parent Document hh:mm:ss	All
4	FROM	Sender	E-mail
5	TO	Recipient	E-mail
6	CC	Additional Recipients	E-mail
7	BCC	Blind Additional Recipients	E-mail
8	SUBJECT	Subject line of e-mail	E-mail
9	DATESENT	mm/dd/yyyy	E-mail
10	TIMESENT	hh:mm:ss	E-mail
11	HASHVALUE	Hash value (e.g., MD5 or SHA-1)	All
12	FILENAME	Original file name at the point of collection	E-Document
13	FILEEXT	Original file extension at the point of collection	E-Document
14	TITLE	Title of document or title field extracted from the metadata of non-email ESI	E-Document
15	AUTHOR	Creator of a Document	E-Document
16	DATE CREATED	mm/dd/yyyy	E-Document
17	TIME CREATED	hh:mm:ss	E-Document
18	DATE MODIFIED	mm/dd/yyyy	E-Document
19	TIME MODIFIED	hh:mm:ss	E-Document
20	DOCUMENT TYPE	Descriptor for the type of Document: "E-Document" for electronic Documents not attached to e-mails; "E-mail" for all e-mails; "E-attachment" for files that were attachments to e-mails; and "Hard Copy" for Hard-Copy Documents.	All
21	REDACTED	"Yes" for redacted Documents; "No" for un-redacted Documents.	All
22	PRODVOL	Name of media that data was produced on.	All
23	CONFIDENTIALITY	Confidentiality level if assigned pursuant to any applicable Protective Order or stipulation.	All
24	TIMEZONE	Time zone of data used during processing of data.	All
25	SOURCE	The producing party	All
26	ATTACHIDS	The IDs of the documents that are attached to the produced document	All
27	PARENT ID	Indicates the parent ID for an attachment or embedded document. The parent document ID field should be set for all attachments (including attachments that are emails) but should not be set for parents	E-documents
28	MESSAGEID	The message ID of an email or other type of electronic message	E-documents
	FILESIZE	The size of the file.	E- documents; E-Attachments

- 1
- 2     4. **Time Zone.** Each Party's ESI should be processed using a consistent Time Zone for all
- 3       data. The Party shall share the Time Zone selected for processing of its data with the other
- 4       Party and populate the TimeZone metadata field.
- 5     5. **Encrypted Data.** To the extent documents were encrypted, the producing party shall make
- 6       reasonable efforts to decrypt the documents prior to electronic search, review, and
- 7       production unless doing so is unduly burdensome and/or disproportionate to the needs of
- 8       the case, in which case the parties shall meet and confer regarding the burden and
- 9       possibility of shifting costs to the requesting party pursuant to Rule 26. If there are
- 10      potentially responsive documents that the producing party has been unable, after
- 11      reasonable efforts, to decrypt, the parties shall meet and confer.
- 12
- 13     6. **Password Protected Files.** To the extent documents were password protected at the time
- 14       of collection, prior to electronic search, review, and production, the producing party shall
- 15       take reasonable efforts to remove the password protection unless doing so is unduly
- 16       burdensome and/or disproportionate to the needs of the case, in which case the parties shall
- 17       meet and confer regarding the burden and possibility of shifting costs to the requesting
- 18       party pursuant to Rule 26. If there are potentially responsive password protected
- 19       documents, the password for which the producing party has been unable, after reasonable
- 20       efforts, to locate, the parties shall meet and confer. If a party believes that removing
- 21       password protection is unduly burdensome, the Parties shall meet and confer.
- 22
- 23     7. **Embedded Objects.** Non-image objects embedded in documents shall, when possible, be
- 24       extracted and produced as separate documents. The producing party will make reasonable
- 25       and good faith efforts to treat such extracted embedded documents like attachments to the
- 26       document. Embedded documents will be produced following the parent with a continuous
- 27       Bates range.
- 28
- 29     8. **Compressed and Container Files.** Compressed and container file types (e.g., .ZIP, .RAR,
- 30       etc.) shall be decompressed to ensure that a compressed file within a compressed file are
- 31       decompressed into the lowest possible compression to ensure all files are searched and
- 32       produced as separate records. Emails and their attachments shall be extracted separately
- 33       and shall be produced with the family relationship intact via the BegAttach and EndAttach
- 34       fields identified in Appendix A.
- 35
- 36     9. **Hyperlinked Files.** If a Receiving Party identifies a hyperlinked file that it reasonably
- 37       believes to be responsive and seeks its production, that Party shall identify by Bates
- 38       number the document in which the hyperlinked file appears and the Producing Party will
- 39       produce such file if responsive and to the extent not unduly burdensome.
- 40
- 41     10. If a Document is more than one page, the unitization of the Document and any attachments
- 42       and/or affixed notes shall be maintained as they existed in the original Document.
- 43
- 44     11. **TIFFs.** Documents that exist only in hard copy format shall be scanned and produced as
- 45       TIFFs. Unless excepted below, documents that exist as ESI shall be converted and
- 46       produced as TIFFs. Unless excepted below, single page Group IV TIFFs should be
- 47       provided, at least 300 dots per inch (dpi) for all documents. TIFFs may be produced in
- 48       black & white, except that a party may request color JPGs of other documents where color
- 49       is reasonably necessary to their comprehension or use, and such request shall not
- 50       unreasonably be denied. Each image shall be named according to a unique corresponding
- 51       Bates number associated with the document. Each image shall be branded according to the

Bates number and the agreed upon confidentiality designation. Original document orientation should be maintained (i.e., portrait to portrait and landscape to landscape). To the extent available without undue burden, all documents that contain comments, deletions and revision marks (including the identity of the person making the deletion or revision and the date and time thereof), speaker notes or other user-entered data that the source application can display to the user will be processed such that all that data is visible in the Image File. All hidden text, columns, rows, and worksheets will be expanded, extracted, and rendered in the TIFF file. The Producing Party will instruct its vendor to force off Auto Date so that any ESI converted to TIFF maintains any date/time shown in a document as it was last saved by the custodian or end user, not the date of collection or processing.

12. **Text Files.** A single multi-page text file shall be provided for each document, and the filename should match the first bates number of the document. Text must be extracted directly from the native electronic file of ESI unless the document requires redaction, is a scanned hardcopy document, is an image file, or is any other native electronic file that does not contain text to extract (e.g., non-searchable PDFs), in which case searchable text shall be created using OCR. Extracted text shall not contain the Bates number or Confidentiality Designation. A commercially acceptable technology for optical character recognition “OCR” shall be used. All documents shall be produced with a link in the TextLink field.
13. **Image Load Files / Data Load Files.** Each TIFF in a production must be referenced in the corresponding image load file. The total number of documents referenced in a production’s data load file should match the total number of designated document breaks in the Image Load file(s) in the production. The total number of pages referenced in a production’s image load file should match the total number of TIFF files in the production. The total number of documents in a production should match the total number of records in the data load file.
14. **Bates Numbering.** All images must be assigned a unique Bates number that is sequential within a given document and across the production sets.
15. **Confidentiality Designation.** Responsive documents in TIFF format will be stamped with the appropriate confidentiality designations in accordance with the Protective Order in this matter. Each responsive document produced in native format will have its confidentiality designation identified in the filename of the native file.
16. **Redaction Of Information.** If documents are produced with redactions, an electronic copy of the original, unredacted document shall be securely preserved in such a manner so as to preserve without modification, alteration or addition the content of such document including any metadata therein.
17. **Native Files.** Spreadsheets (e.g., MS Excel, Google Sheets), delimited text files (e.g. comma-separated value (.csv) files and tab-separated value (.tsv) files), audio, and video files shall be produced in either their native format or, for Google Sheets, MS Excel. TIFF images need not be produced unless the files have been redacted, in which instance such files shall be produced in TIFF with OCR Text Files. A TIFF placeholder indicating that the document was provided in native format should accompany the native file. If a file has been redacted, TIFF images and OCR text of the redacted document will suffice in lieu of a native file and extracted text. Native files shall have a file name that includes the Bates number and Confidentiality Designation. Any party printing the native file for use in this matter shall append and use the placeholder TIFF as a cover sheet to the native file at all times.

- 1       18. **Proprietary Files.** To the extent a response to discovery requires production of ESI  
2 accessible only through proprietary software, the parties should continue to preserve each  
3 version of such information. The parties shall meet and confer to finalize the appropriate  
4 production format.
- 5       19. **Family Groups.** An email, instant message, or document with non-image embedded  
6 objects and its attachments constitute a family group. Parent-child relationships (the  
7 association between an email, instant message, or document with non-image embedded  
8 objects and its attachments) will be preserved through the production of an appropriate  
9 metadata field. If any member of a family group is determined to be responsive to a party's  
10 document requests, then all members of that group must also be considered as responsive.
- 11      20. **Instant Messages.** To the extent instant messages (e.g., Slack, Jabber, Google Chat) or  
12 text messages (e.g., SMS, iMessage) are produced for any custodian, a party shall take  
13 reasonable steps to produce such messages in a manner that preserves the context of the  
14 communication by producing messages occurring before or after a given message  
pertaining to the same topic.
- 15      21. **Re-productions.** Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, documents that are  
16 reproduced in whole or in part from the production files of another litigation, arbitration,  
17 government inquiry, or other matter may be produced in the same manner and form as  
18 originally produced in the other matter, provided however that a party will re-produce  
19 documents in a different format for good cause shown. This provision does not waive the  
right of a party to object to any requests for reproduction of production files from another  
litigation, arbitration, government inquiry, or other matter.
- 20      22. **Replacement Productions.** Any replacement production will be transmitted with a cover  
21 letter or email to identify the production as a replacement and cross-reference the BegDoc  
22 and EndDoc of the documents being replaced. Replacement productions shall include load  
23 files necessary to link the replacement file to other previously produced document family  
24 members. Where the replacement document occupies more pages than an original  
placeholder image, the Producing Party shall apply an appropriate numerical suffix to the  
Bates number of the file (e.g., ABC000123.001 to ABC000123.005). If the replacement  
25 production is being transmitted by physical media, the media shall include the phrase  
"Replacement Production."
- 26      23. **Production Media.** Documents shall be encrypted and produced on an FTP site or  
27 electronic media (hard drive, thumb drive, DVD or CD) ("Production Media"). Each piece  
28 of Production Media shall identify a production number corresponding to the production  
volume (e.g., "VOL001," "VOL002"), as well as the volume of the material in that  
production (e.g. "-001," "-002"). Each piece of Production Media shall also identify: (1)  
the producing party's name; (2) the production date; (3) the Bates Number range of the  
materials contained on the Production Media; and (4) the set(s) of requests for production  
for which the documents are being produced.